

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An absolute value calculating element comprising:  
electrostrictive elements; and a  
detecting means for detecting an amount of deformation thereof, of said electrostrictive elements;  
wherein an alternating-current signal is calculated into an absolute value and output by impressing the alternating-current signal to said electrostrictive elements to deform the samesaid electrostrictive elements and by converting a distortion of said electrostrictive elements into an-a direct-current electric signal by using said detecting means.
2. (Currently Amended) The absolute value calculating element of Claim 1, wherein said detecting means comprises a piezoelectric/electrostrictive element that is deformed in proportion to the amount of said deformation of said electrostrictive elements; and  
wherein an-the alternating-current signal is calculated into an absolute value and output by impressing the alternating-current signal to said electrostrictive elements to deform the samesaid electrostrictive elements and by outputting an electromotive force generated by thesaid deformation of said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element.
3. (Previously Presented) The absolute value calculating element of Claim 2, wherein said electrostrictive elements and said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element are overlapped and pinched between a rigid body that is not deformed.

4. (Currently Amended) The absolute value calculating element of Claim 2, wherein one end of each said electrostrictive elements element is fixed in a deforming direction thereof while the other end of each said electrostrictive elements element is fixedly attached to one surface of an elastic plate body, said elastic plate body having one fixed end and another free end; and

wherein said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element is plate-shaped and is fixedly attached to the other an opposed surface of said elastic plate body.

5. (Currently Amended) The absolute value calculating element of Claim 4, wherein said electrostrictive elements and said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element are formed in a plate-like shape, plate-shaped,

wherein said electrostrictive elements are fixedly attached to one surface of said elastic plate body while said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element is fixedly attached to the opposing surface of said elastic plate body.